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ABSTRACT

Kwanzaa is a non-heroic and non-religious holiday created in Los Angeles, California in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. The holiday has grown from a cultural idea and expression by a dedicated few to a national and international celebration by an estimated 12 million people. Although Kwanzaa has been in existence for over 20 years, many either don't know of its existence or have only recently learned of it, the chief reason seeming to be that since its genesis was via community-based organizations, general information about the holiday remained within these organizations until they began publishing and distributing printed information in the 1970s. After this period, the national press and electronics media began reporting on this holiday. This longitudinal bibliography on Kwanzaa consists of 145 selected entries arranged in eight topical sections: (1) audiovisual; (2) books; (3) children's newspapers; (4) children's literature; (5) newsletters; (6) newspapers; (7) magazines; and (8) unpublished works at the Library of Congress. It is designed to provide a bibliographic introduction to Kwanzaa, illustrate its first 20 year bibliographic history, and spark interest in the idea of developing a Kwanzaa bibliographic network/database interest group to explore this African American holiday. (MAS)

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Kwanzaa 1969-1989: A Selected Bibliography

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X. Abbreviations

I. Introduction

Kwanzaa is a (non-heroic and non-religious) African American holiday created in Los Angeles, California in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a Professor of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. The holiday has grown from a cultural idea and expression of a dedicated few to a national and international celebration celebrated by an estimated 12 million people. The holiday is a synthesis of African and African American history and culture which uses seven core principles (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, faith) to highlight the end of the harvest season in traditional African societies. The celebration begins on December 26 and ends seven days later on January 1 of each year.

Although Kwanzaa has been in existence for over twenty years, many don't know of its existence or have only recently learned of its existence. There are many reasons for this, however, the chief reason seems to be that since its genesis was via community-based organizations, general information about the holiday remained with them until they began publishing and distributing printed information in the 1970's. After this period, the national press (mainly newspapers) and the electronic media began reporting the dynamics of the holiday.

To my knowledge, this is the first longitudinal bibliography on Kwanzaa. It consists of 145 selected entries arranged in eight topical sections: (1) Audiovisual; (2) Books; (3) Children's Activity Materials; (4) Children's Literature; (5) Newsletters; (6) Newspapers; (7) Magazines; and (8) Unpublished Works at the Library of Congress. It is designed to provide a bibliographic introduction to Kwanzaa, illustrate its first twenty year (1969-1989) bibliographic history, and (hopefully) spark interest in the idea of developing a (local, national international) Kwanzaa bibliographic network/database interest-group to explore this unique African American holiday.

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X. ABBREVIATIONS

COHM:	Copyright Office History Monograph
Kwanza:	Kwanzaa
PAU:	Unpublished Performance
TX:	Nondramatic Literary Arts
TXU:	Unpublished Text
VAU:	Unpublished Performance Visual Arts
VHS:	Video Home System